

Claims

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A system for generating a report by a reporting tool of a SAP business information system
2 using data included within an Aspect file, said system comprising a non-SAP bridge program
3 adapted to generate the Aspect file through use of data derived from a dataset and to transmit the
4 Aspect file to the SAP business information system.
- 1 2. The system of claim 1, wherein the dataset is a non-SAP-formatted dataset.
- 1 3. The system of claim 1, wherein the dataset is a SAP-formatted dataset.
- 1 4. The system of claim 1, wherein the SAP business information system comprises an SAP
2 Executive Information System (EIS).

1 5. A system for generating a report by a reporting tool of a SAP business information system
2 using data included within an Aspect file having rollup records, said system comprising a non-
3 SAP bridge program adapted to generate the Aspect file through use of data derived from a
4 dataset and to transmit the Aspect file to the SAP business information system, said dataset
5 having a keygroup, wherein to generate the Aspect file includes to roll up a portion of the dataset
6 with respect to the keygroup, wherein each rollup record has a rollup field and a quantity field,
7 wherein the rollup field stores a rollup keyvalue of the keygroup, and wherein the quantity field
8 stores the number of dataset records that have the same rollup keyvalue.

1 6. The system of claim 5, wherein the bridge program is further adapted to cause the rollup
2 records in the generated Aspect file to be sorted with respect to the keygroup.

1 7. The system of claim 5, wherein the dataset is a non-SAP-formatted dataset.

1 8. The system of claim 5, wherein the dataset is a SAP-formatted dataset.

1 9. The system of claim 5, wherein the bridge program is further adapted to generate a trace file
2 that includes a representative rollup keyvalue of the keygroup and a pointer that points to a
3 portion of the dataset, said portion being correlated with the representative rollup keyvalue.

1 10. The system of claim 5, wherein the SAP business information system comprises an SAP
2 Executive Information System (EIS).

1 11. The system of claim 5, wherein the bridge program is further adapted to identify select
2 records of the dataset in accordance with at least one selection rule applied to the dataset, and
3 wherein the portion of the dataset includes the select records so identified.

1 12. The system of claim 11, wherein to identify the select records includes to accept as input a
2 first date and a second date, wherein the first date is earlier than the second date, and wherein the
3 selection rules do not permit identifying as a select record any record of the dataset having an
4 effective date that is earlier than the first date or later than the second date.

1 13. The system of claim 5, wherein the dataset is selected from the group consisting of a table, a
2 spreadsheet, and a combination thereof.

1 14. The system of claim 5, wherein the report relates to procurement data, and wherein the rollup
2 records include the procurement data.

1 15. The system of claim 14, wherein the procurement data is selected from the group consisting
2 of purchase order data, invoice data, and a combination thereof.

1 16. A system for generating a report by a reporting tool of a SAP business information system
2 using and combining data included within N Aspect files A_1, A_2, \dots, A_N respectively having
3 rollup records $[R]_1, [R]_2, \dots, [R]_N$, said N at least 2, said system comprising at least one non-SAP
4 bridge program adapted to respectively generate the N Aspect files through use of data derived
5 from select records $[S]_1, [S]_2, \dots, [S]_N$ of N datasets D_1, D_2, \dots, D_N , respectively, and to transmit
6 the N Aspect files to the SAP business information system, said select records $[S]_1, [S]_2, \dots, [S]_N$
7 having a common keygroup, wherein to generate the N Aspect files comprises, for $i = 1, 2, \dots$,
8 and N:

9 to identify the select records $[S]_i$ in accordance with selection rules applied to D_i ; and
10 to roll up the select records $[S]_i$ with respect to the common keygroup, wherein the rollup
11 records $[R]_i$ corresponding to $[S]_i$ have a rollup field and a quantity field, wherein the rollup field
12 stores a rollup keyvalue of the select records $[S]_i$, and wherein the quantity field stores the
13 number of select records of $[S]_i$ that have the same rollup keyvalue.

1 17. The system of claim 16, wherein a first dataset of the N datasets is a non-SAP-formatted
2 dataset.

1 18. The system of claim 16, wherein a first dataset of the N datasets is a SAP-formatted dataset.

1 19. The system of claim 16, wherein a first dataset of the N datasets and a second dataset of the N
2 datasets have different formats.

1 20. The system of claim 16, wherein the datasets D_1, D_2, \dots, D_N have formats F_1, F_2, \dots, F_N ,
2 respectively, wherein the at least one bridge program comprises N bridge programs P_1, P_2, \dots, P_N
3 respectively keyed to the formats F_1, F_2, \dots, F_N for respectively generating the Aspect files $A_1, A_2,$
4 \dots, A_N .

1 21. The system of claim 16, wherein the datasets D_1, D_2, \dots, D_N have formats F_1, F_2, \dots, F_N ,
2 respectively, and wherein the at least one bridge program consists of one bridge program having
3 logical paths L_1, L_2, \dots, L_N respectively keyed to the formats F_1, F_2, \dots, F_N for respectively
4 generating the Aspect files A_1, A_2, \dots, A_N .

1 22. The system of claim 16, wherein the selection rules are the same for each of the N datasets.

1 23. The system of claim 16, wherein the SAP business information system comprises an SAP
2 Executive Information System (EIS).

1 24. The system of claim 16, wherein the report relates to procurement data, and wherein the
2 rollup records $[R]_1, [R]_2, \dots, [R]_N$ include the procurement data.

1 25. The system of claim 24, wherein the procurement data is selected from the group consisting
2 of purchase order data, invoice data, and a combination thereof.

1 26. A method for generating a report by a reporting tool of a SAP business information system
2 using data included within an Aspect file, said method comprising executing a non-SAP bridge
3 program, said executing including:
4 generating the Aspect file through use of data derived from a dataset; and
5 transmitting the Aspect file to the SAP business information system.

1 27. The method of claim 26, wherein the dataset is a non-SAP-formatted dataset.

1 28. The method of claim 26, wherein the dataset is a SAP-formatted dataset.

1 29. The method of claim 26, wherein the SAP business information system comprises an SAP
2 Executive Information System (EIS).

1 30. A method for generating a report by a reporting tool of a SAP business information system
2 using data included within an Aspect file having rollup records, said method comprising:
3 providing a dataset having a keygroup; and
4 executing a non-SAP bridge program, including generating the Aspect file, said
5 generating comprising rolling up a portion of the dataset with respect to the keygroup, wherein
6 each rollup record has a rollup field and a quantity field, wherein the rollup field stores a rollup
7 keyvalue of the keygroup, and wherein the quantity field stores the number of dataset records that
8 have the same rollup keyvalue.

1 31. The method of claim 30, wherein generating the Aspect file includes causing the rollup
2 records in the generated Aspect file to be sorted with respect to the keygroup.

1 32. The method of claim 30, wherein the dataset is a non-SAP-formatted dataset.

1 33. The method of claim 30, wherein the dataset is a SAP-formatted dataset.

1 34. The method of claim 30, further comprising generating a trace file that includes a
2 representative rollup keyvalue of the keygroup and a pointer that points to a portion of the
3 dataset, said portion being correlated with the representative rollup keyvalue.

1 35. The method of claim 30, wherein the SAP business information system comprises an SAP
2 Executive Information System (EIS).

1 36. The method of claim 30, further comprising identifying select records of the dataset in
2 accordance with at least one selection rule applied to the dataset, said portion of the dataset
3 including the select records so identified.

1 37. The method of claim 36, said identifying including accepting as input a first date and a
2 second date, said first date earlier than said second date, said selection rules not permitting said
3 identifying to identify as a select record any record of the dataset having an effective date that is
4 earlier than the first date or later than the second date.

1 38. The method of claim 30, wherein the dataset is selected from the group consisting of a table,
2 a spreadsheet, and a combination thereof.

1 39. The method of claim 30, wherein the report relates to procurement data, and wherein the
2 rollup records include the procurement data.

1 40. The method of claim 39, wherein the procurement data is selected from the group consisting
2 of purchase order data, invoice data, and a combination thereof.

1 41. The method of claim 30, further comprising:
2 transmitting the Aspect file to the SAP business information system where the Aspect file
3 becomes a Temp file having the rollup records;
4 making a query to sum over the quantity field for a subset of the rollup records of the
5 Temp file, wherein the subset is determined by the query, and wherein the query is adapted to
6 being executed by a SAP module in the SAP computing environment; and
7 executing the query by the SAP module including returning a result of the query.

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1 42. A method for generating a report by a reporting tool of a SAP business information system
2 using and combining data included within N Aspect files A_1, A_2, \dots, A_N respectively having
3 rollup records $[R]_1, [R]_2, \dots, [R]_N$, said N at least 2, said method comprising providing N datasets
4 D_1, D_2, \dots, D_N having a common keygroup, and for $i = 1, 2, \dots$, and N executing a non-SAP
5 bridge program, including:

6 identifying select records $[S]_i$ of the dataset D_i , said identifying in accordance with
7 selection rules applied to D_i ; and

8 rolling up the select records $[S]_i$ with respect to the common keygroup, wherein the rollup
9 records $[R]_i$ corresponding to $[S]_i$ have a rollup field and a quantity field, wherein the rollup field
10 stores a rollup keyvalue of the select records $[S]_i$, and wherein the quantity field stores the
11 number of select records of $[S]_i$ that have the same rollup keyvalue.

1 43. The method of claim 42, wherein a first dataset of the N datasets is a non-SAP-formatted
2 dataset.

1 44. The method of claim 42, wherein a first dataset of the N datasets is a SAP-formatted dataset.

1 45. The method of claim 42, wherein a first dataset of the N datasets and a second dataset of the
2 N datasets have different formats.

1 46. The method of claim 42, wherein the datasets D_1, D_2, \dots, D_N have formats F_1, F_2, \dots, F_N ,
2 respectively, wherein the at least one bridge program comprises N bridge programs P_1, P_2, \dots, P_N
3 respectively keyed to the formats F_1, F_2, \dots, F_N for respectively generating the Aspect files $A_1, A_2,$
4 \dots, A_N .

1 47. The method of claim 42, wherein the datasets D_1, D_2, \dots, D_N have formats F_1, F_2, \dots, F_N ,
2 respectively, and wherein the at least one bridge program consists of one bridge program having
3 logical paths L_1, L_2, \dots, L_N respectively keyed to the formats F_1, F_2, \dots, F_N for respectively
4 generating the Aspect files A_1, A_2, \dots, A_N .

1 48. The method of claim 42, wherein the selection rules are the same for each of the N datasets.

1 49. The method of claim 42, wherein the SAP business information system comprises an SAP
2 Executive Information System (EIS).

1 50. The method of claim 42, wherein the report relates to procurement data, and wherein the
2 rollup records $[R]_1, [R]_2, \dots, [R]_N$ include the procurement data.

1 51. The method of claim 50, wherein the procurement data is selected from the group consisting
2 of purchase order data, invoice data, and a combination thereof.

1 52. The method of claim 42, wherein processing the Aspect file A_i further includes transmitting
2 the Aspect file A_i to the SAP business information system where the Aspect file A_i becomes a
3 Temp file T_i having the rollup records $[R]_i$, and wherein the method further comprises:
4 making a query to sum over the quantity field for a subset of the rollup records of the N
5 Temp files in composite, wherein the subset is determined by the query, and wherein the query is
6 adapted to being executed by a SAP module in the SAP computing environment; and
7 executing the query by the SAP module including returning a result of the query.

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1 53. A computer program product, comprising a computer usable medium having a computer
2 readable program code embodied therein for generating a report by a reporting tool of a SAP
3 business information system using data included within an Aspect file, said program code
4 comprising a non-SAP bridge program adapted to generate the Aspect file through use of data
5 derived from a dataset and to transmit the Aspect file to the SAP business information system.

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1 54. A computer program product, comprising a computer usable medium having a computer
2 readable program code embodied therein for generating a report by a reporting tool of a SAP
3 business information system using data included within an Aspect file having rollup records, said
4 program code comprising a non-SAP bridge program adapted to generate the Aspect file through
5 use of data derived from a dataset and to transmit the Aspect file to the SAP business information
6 system, said dataset having a keygroup, wherein to generate the Aspect file includes to roll up a
7 portion of the dataset with respect to the keygroup, wherein each rollup record has a rollup field
8 and a quantity field, wherein the rollup field stores a rollup keyvalue of the keygroup, and
9 wherein the quantity field stores the number of dataset records that have the same rollup
10 keyvalue.

1 55. A computer program product, comprising a computer usable medium having a computer
2 readable program code embodied therein for generating a report by a reporting tool of a SAP
3 business information system using and combining data included within N Aspect files $A_1, A_2, \dots,$
4 A_N respectively having rollup records $[R]_1, [R]_2, \dots, [R]_N$, said N at least 2, said program code
5 comprising at least one non-SAP bridge program adapted to respectively generate the N Aspect
6 files through use of data derived from select records $[S]_1, [S]_2, \dots, [S]_N$ of N datasets $D_1, D_2, \dots,$
7 D_N , respectively, and to transmit the N Aspect files to the SAP business information system, said
8 select records $[S]_1, [S]_2, \dots, [S]_N$ having a common keygroup, wherein to generate the N Aspect
9 files comprises, for $i = 1, 2, \dots,$ and N:
10 to identify the select records $[S]_i$ in accordance with selection rules applied to D_i ; and
11 to roll up the select records $[S]_i$ with respect to the common keygroup, wherein the rollup
12 records $[R]_i$ corresponding to $[S]_i$ have a rollup field and a quantity field, wherein the rollup field
13 stores a rollup keyvalue of the select records $[S]_i$, and wherein the quantity field stores the
14 number of select records of $[S]_i$ that have the same rollup keyvalue.